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The University's IDA Ties: A Sorry Political Statement

The Committee of the Council of the University Senate has postponed deciding on the University's relationship with the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). The type of work done by IDA—devising methods for U.S. troops to use on revolutionary movements abroad and on student and ghetto uprisings at home—should by now be fairly well known. That the University would unquestioningly accept such contracts is a sorry statement of its politics.

But there is far more to the IDA contracts than that. The question of government intrusion on the campus can no longer be ignored on any less than a strict moral level. Recent disclosure that the government had infiltrated even the prestigious Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan should serve as a shocking reminder as to just whose agency IDA is. One facet of the CIA infiltration of Michigan was strictly for the purpose of keeping tabs on student and faculty activism—no euphemisms of basic research, no "research for defense," just manipulation and control of the citizenry, plain and simple. THOSE WHO argue "Michigan

always was a big research school" miss the point—the only reason the Michigan disclosure stands out is because of its aggressive student newspaper. CIA/government infiltration of the purely manipulative sort must now be considered the rule rather than the exception of daily life in the university.

Indeed, it is often argued that private research is generally more efficient than that done at universities, and that the main purpose of the extremely widespread government-university grants is to insure a bond between Washington and as many universities as possible.

This is clearly an intolerable situation. Unless our universities are independent from all government presence they can no longer be considered free, and a university that is not free is not worth having, is indeed a detriment to the establishment of a free society. If this University is unable to free itself from a so obviously manipulative and reactionary agency as the Institute for Defense Analyses then where, indeed, is it going to start?

Despite the general uselessness

of the McCarthy "peace" campaign, it has served the function of bringing out the best in the Johnson administration. McCarthy, who is running on LBJ's 1964 platform and who has presented no ideological opposition to U.S. presence in Vietnam, is facing LBJ forces first in New Hampshire. There administration forces have been handing out numbered "pledge cards" for registered Democrats to sign and to return to the state machine files and the White House, showing that they will, in fact, write-in the President's name on the March 12 ballot.

To cap the Johnson drive for reelection, LBJ's New Hampshire Governor John W. King has been telling the voters it would be "unpatriotic" for Democrats not to vote for the President. "They've got a little list, and you better not be missed," goes the song.

(Editor's note: Mr. Wasserman, a first-year student in the Department of History, was an editor on The Michigan Daily and currently is a correspondent for Collegiate Press Service.)